

January, 2010

Onion Creek Masonic Lodge #220

Beacon

*Ancient Free and Accepted Masons
Chartered by the Grand Lodge of Texas
16 June 1858*

Visit our Web site at onioncreeklodge220.org



HAPPY ★ NEW ★ YEAR



LODGE OFFICERS 2009-2010

WM: Dale L. Flatt
SW: Tony M. Ramirez
JW: Dennis J. Ross
Treas: Dennis C. Kestner, PM
Sec: J. Roland Brown
Chap: John W. Turner, PM
SD: Adrian W. Edmundson
JD: Raul J. Scully
SS: Ben B. Rauschke
JS: Curtis A. Gilgan
Mar: Robert A. Clark, PM
MC: Ricky J. Tindell, PM
Tlr: Jephthe Medois

Committee Chairmen

Ill & Visitation

Dale L. Flatt
John Turner

Communications

Roland Brown

Building

Curtis A. Gilgan

Beacon & History

H. Max Fisher

Hospital Volunteers

Ricky Tindell
Bart Tuthill

Funerals

Don R. Long
Charles Jennings

Living Past Masters

1968- Webb Woodland
1970- Tommie J. Conner
1971- Ralph L. Cearley
1972- W. David Johnson
1975- Jimmy M. Hodges
1978- Roy L. Hamor
1979- Bobby J. Doherty
1981- Ronald B. Norwood
1982- Howard D. Hall
1983- Alan Karotkin
1985- Matias S. Ruiz
1986- Richard A. Frazer
1987- Jose V. Seguin
1988- Elliott R. Wilson
1989- Jerry T. Jarmon
1990- Dennis Kestner
1992- Ronnie H. Lee
1994- Albert A. Mehlhaff
1995- Walter H. Argall
1995- Javier R. Gonzalez
1997- Kenneth P. Wood
1998- William S. Lear
1999- John W. Turner
2000- James F. Keese
2001- Walter E. Sanders
2002- Jonathon D. Walker
2003- Robert L. Roda
2004- Ricky J. Tindell
2005- Elijo Arjona Jr.
2006- Hamilton B. Carter
2007- Russell M. Tidwell II
2008- Michael E. Sanders
2009- Daniel E. Barber

Members Who Have Served Other Lodges as Past Masters

Jesus Araiza
Jimmie L. Banks
Robert A. Clark
Don R. Cowley
Gerald T. Dawson
Allen Deaver
Carlton L. Edwards
Elbert Franks
O. Tripp Garza
Cecil Goodwin
Reagan W. Hammett
Ronald Holton
Bennie L. Hudson
Gordon W. Kelso
Jim King
Don R. Long
Bobby J. Norris
Boyce V. Oakes
Gene C. Payne
Arthur D. Pederson
L. Bruce Roberson
Gene Sassman
Otsie Stowell
William W. Winnie III



*Stated Meeting Thursday
January 7th, 2010*

Meal at 6:30 pm

Meeting at 7:30 pm

**Called to the Celestial
Lodge this month**

**Bro Howard Long Nov 28
60th WM 1955**

**Bro Howard was the 1st
Worshipful Master to
serve in the New Lodge
Hall**

Bro Francis Reissig Dec 4



Union Creek Masonic Lodge A F & A M South Austin, Texas



Procrastination - We All Do It!

It's that list that rumbles around in your head and never quite makes it onto paper. Fix the window screen, get tires for the car, and ugh, that faucet is still leaking! Be it in our heads or on little scraps of paper, we all have a list of things that we feel need to be done. We sort our list and set priorities and those of us who are married will tell you that our wives have a list of their own – the infamous “honey-do” list; still, each one is a list of things that need to be fixed, purchased, or done.

Then the unexpected happens and puts it all into perspective. It could be a sudden illness, a tragic accident, or nature just taking its course. We all procrastinate, and then we or someone we love will die. In my first article as Master I told you my story of The Widow's Son. I watched my mother sit beside my father's hospital bed for nine months, and the prognosis was never good. Although my parents were able to set some things into motion before his passing, many things were still left undone.

Of all of the things on your list, the most important thing may very well be sitting down with your spouse and/or your adult children and placing your affairs in order. If you have ever had to deal with making funeral arrangements or closing out a parent's estate, you know what I mean. Some of you have planned ahead and are way ahead of most of us. Me, I have put this off for years – simply put, I have procrastinated on something far too important for procrastination.

This January we will kick off our Saturday Brunch Series which I have dubbed “Placing Your Ducks in a Row.” I have invited a lawyer to speak to us about some of the legal documents we should have in place and someone from Harrell's Funeral Homes will discuss pre-planning and the list of things the survivor must do. This is not a sales pitch, but is an open forum where you will receive some free advice from qualified professionals and be able to ask them questions. This workshop will be on Saturday the 23rd of January at 9 am I hope to see you there!

A traveler on the path.... Dale

What Are Your New Year's Resolutions?

If you're like most people, your resolutions will probably fall by the wayside early in the year. But we as a Lodge need to make some New Year's resolutions - it's urgent! Your Lodge has operated at a substantial loss for the last couple of years, and we need to stop that trend. To help do that, we can upgrade our Lodge building and the electrical and water systems; our structure is a “target-rich environment” for improvements.

What is our financial outlook? The economic downturn has hit our endowed memberships, resulting in no earnings this year, but we must still pay an annual “head tax” to Grand Lodge for every member except fifty year members. Fortunately, our Lodge will be exempt from property tax next year. This tax must be paid for 2009, but the Texas Legislature has approved this exemption beginning in 2010. This tax relief should reduce our deficit by nearly 20 per cent, but what about the other 80 per cent?

Can we, as a Lodge and as individual members, help stop the red ink? Yes, we can. At \$45 a year, our dues are less than half that of some other local Lodges, but we have resisted raising dues because many of our members are on fixed incomes with budgets that are already strained. However, if you are able, please count your blessings and consider including a cash donation when you send your dues. A \$100 check would still be less than the dues of some other area Lodges and would be a great help. If you are an endowed member, a \$15 donation would cover the levy on you paid to Grand Lodge each year. Together, our gifts could eliminate our red ink.

Is there anything else the Lodge can do? Again, the answer is yes. When you came to Lodge recently, did you notice the new lights? These brighter but more economical lights are the result of an Austin Energy lighting audit. More importantly, this improvement will pay for itself thanks to lower operating cost, a large rebate, and a generous gift from a Brother Mason! Stay tuned – more improvements are coming – and that's our New Year's Resolution!

From The Secretary's Desk: Roland





Onion Creek Masonic Lodge Beacon

January 2010



Here Sleepeth Now A Fellow

Who Was Always On The Square

It matters not whate'er your lot,

Or what your task may be,

One duty there remains for you,

One duty stands for me.

Be you a doctor skilled and wise,

Or do your work for wage,

A laborer upon the street,

An artist on the stage;

Our glory still awaits for you,

One honor that is fair,

To have men say as you pass by:

"That fellow's on the Square."

Ah, here's a phrase that stands for much

'Tis good old English too,

It means that men have confidence

In everything you do,

It means that what you have

you've earned,

And that you've done your best,

And when you go to sleep at night

Untroubled you may rest.

It means that conscience is your guide,

And honor is your care;

There is no greater praise than this:

"That fellow's on the Square."

When I die I would not wish

A lengthy epitaph;

I do not wish a headstone large,

Carved with fulsome chaff,

Pick out no single deed of mine,

If such a deed there be,

To 'grave upon my monument,

For those who come to see,

Just this one phrase of all I choose,

To show my life was fair:

"Here Sleepeth Now A Fellow

Who Was Always On The Square"

Shared by Bro Duncan Copland

Onion Creek Building Committee

Since as I write this update I will be away from the lodge for the next several weeks after which the lodge will be dark for several weeks, this is a good time to summarize last month's energy audit from the City of Austin and the suggested changes. Most importantly, the key issue that the lodge needs to deal with is managing our energy usage to reduce spikes in energy usage – the lodge's problem is not so much the amount of energy it uses but that when we use energy, we use a large amount (i.e. > 20kW demand) at that time. The "low hanging fruit" that was pointed out by the energy audit was converting our light fixtures from magnetic ballasts to electronic ballasts; timers on the water heaters; and sealing or upgrading windows. It should not surprise anyone that our real issue is cooling – specifically the upstairs unit. In January, I plan to get a clearer picture on just how large a unit is required and what this would cost. An Austin Energy rebate program saved us 56% on the cost of our new lights and will save more than half on future operating costs.

Curtis Gilgan-Chairman

Chaplain John Turner- our known Onion Creek ill Dick Frazer (Lockhart), Gene Sassman (Air Force Village), Charles Ridenour (Carestone), Howard Crain (declining), Johnnie Long (much improved), Art Pederson (better), Cecil Goodwin (better), Ken Wood (better), Jack Hurt (improving), and Webb Woodland (doing very well). Need contact information on James Porter, and Tom Richardson.





HAPPY★NEW★YEAR



South Hospital Masonic Volunteers for November 2009

In November, 15 people (12 Masons and 3 wives and friends) worked 27 separate shifts totaling 103.5 hours. As usual, Ron Moreau led with 27 hours, followed by Bart Tuthill with 13.5. Carl and Jeanine Robinson worked 6 hours each for a couple total of 12 hours, and Roland Brown worked 9 hours. Those with 6 hours each were Daniel Andrade, Walter Boyd, Max Fisher, and Bobby Tiner. Working 3 hours each were Glen Broddrick, Linda Boyd, Norm Hayes, Dwane Ideker, Charles Jennings, and Ricky Tindell. South Austin Hospital showed its appreciation for the volunteers by hosting a Christmas Luncheon program on Sunday, December 13th. **Please contact Bro Ricky Tindell 247-4742 or Bro Bart Tuthill 282-5905 to help with this service.**

Masonic Birthdays Raised in January of (year)

John Adams (01), David Allen (98) James Berry (68), Darrel Boyd (55), Bobby Brown (53), Maxie Brune (72), Raymundo Castillo (97), Lawrence Crooke (49), James (Griz) Davidson (02), Hillery Davis (69), Adrian Edmundson (04), Jackie Fellers (69), Daniel Foote (83) Melvin Fulkerson (64), Ben Gray (62), Jimmy Greybeck (98), William Hatten (84), Freddie Hite (56), James King (68), Wendell Koenig (80), James Kruger (00), Kenneth Lind (63), Adriel Lopez (98), Randy Martin (89), Vernon Miears (85), Tony Moreno (54), Andy Murchison (75), Lanny Overall (77), Sam Piper (65), Kenneth Polk (69), James Porter (70), Richard Pringle (65), Richard Rayborn (96), Thomas Richardson (57), Leon Ross (53), Jay Rountree (55), Mathias H Ruiz (78), James Sterling (80), Jake Tanner (98), Cecil White (81), Carl Winters (97), and Mike Zombola (90).

**And God said, "Let there be light,
and there was light!"**

January Food Committee: Co-Chairmen Buddy Wilson (892-0814) & Howard Park (312-1108)

Members: Mike Owens, Joe Park, Robert Park Sr, Freddie Park, Richard Park, Lloyd Robertson, Raul Scully, & Kenneth Smith. Food committee members are requested to contact the chairman for further information. MENU: Sausage, cole slaw, desert and assorted condiments.

January is named for the Roman god Janus (Ianuarius in Latin). The origin is the Latin word "ianua" which means "door." Janus is the god of the doorway, thus January is the name of the first month, the door to the year. In Roman mythology, **Janus** (or **Ianus**) was the god of gates, doors, doorways, beginnings and endings. His most prominent remnant in modern culture is his namesake, the month of January, which begins the new year. He is most often depicted as having two faces or heads, facing in opposite directions. Janus looks backward to the old year and forward to the new.

January Birthdays

Ernest Applegate (2), Bill Bastas (10), Will Beatty (16), Jared Clarkson (22), Mark Edwards (18), Robert Fleming (11), Glen Groth (9), Howard Hall (24), Reagan Hammett (24), Jason Harrell (19), Jim Hatton (10), Clyde Hudson (23), David L Johnson (31), Jeff Mallett (11), JC Morton (28), Robert Mullen (18), William Noah (21), Freddie Park (11), Francisco Reyes Jr (22), Aaron Robertson (18), Lloyd Robertson (16), Carl Robinson (22), Charles Ruebbling (14), Gene Sanders (9), David Vinson (2), Henry Tindell (18), John W Turner (28), Robert Wheeler (27), Orlin Williams (10), Buddy Wilson (6), and Carl Winters (1).

**Happy Birthday, Brothers...
and may the Supreme Architect
bless you with many more....**

*May the New Year 2010 bring you and yours
happiness and health, prosperity, and peace!!*

Are You Jesus?

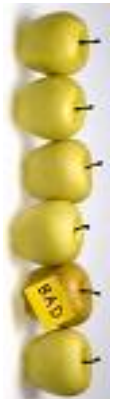
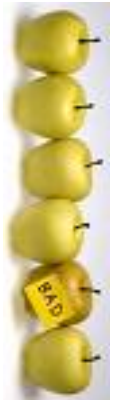
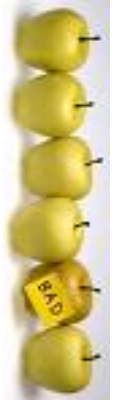
A few years ago a group of salesmen went to a regional sales convention in Chicago. They had assured their wives that they would be home in plenty of time for Friday night's dinner. In their rush, with tickets and briefcases, one of these salesmen inadvertently kicked over a table which held a display of apples. Apples flew everywhere. Without stopping or looking back, they all managed to reach the plane in time for their nearly missed boarding. ALL BUT ONE!!!

He paused, took a deep breath, and experienced a twinge of compassion for the girl whose apple stand had been overturned. He told his buddies to go on without him, waved good-bye, told one of them to call his wife when they arrived at their home destination and explain his taking a later flight. Then he returned to the terminal where the apples were all over the terminal floor. He was glad he did.

The 16 year old girl was totally blind! She was softly crying, tears running down her cheeks in frustration, and at the same time helplessly groping for her spilled produce as the crowd swirled about her, no one stopping and no one to care for her plight. The salesman knelt on the floor with her, gathered up the apples, put them back on the table and helped organize her display. As he did this, he noticed that many of them had become battered and bruised; these he set aside in another basket.

When he had finished, he pulled out his wallet and said to the girl, 'Here, please take this \$40 for the damage we did. Are you Okay?' She nodded through her tears. He continued on with, 'I hope we didn't spoil your day too badly.' As the salesman started to walk away, the bewildered blind girl called out to him, 'Mister....' He paused and turned to look back into those blind eyes. She continued, 'Are you Jesus?' He stopped in mid-stride, and he wondered. Then slowly he made his way to catch the later flight with that question burning and bouncing about in his soul: 'Are you Jesus?'

Do people mistake you for Jesus? That's our Destiny, is it not? To be so much like Jesus that people cannot tell the difference as we live and interact with a world that is blind to His love, life and grace. If we claim to know Him, we should live, walk and act as He would. Knowing Him is more than simply quoting Scripture and going to Church. It's actually living the Word as life unfolds day to day. You are the apple of His eye even though we, too, have been bruised by a fall. He stopped what He was doing and picked you and me up on a hill called Calvary and paid in full for our damaged fruit.



January



From the Roman Republican calendar month **JANUARIUS**, named after **JANUS**, the god of beginnings and endings, doors and all entrances. Janus was an ancient and powerful god whose legend pre-dated Rome. He was known as the god of creation and chaos. He began all things and ended them. Janus sat at the threshold of earth and heaven and was usually depicted with two heads or faces, one of a youth representing a beginning, and the other of an old man representing an ending. In his left hand he held a key to open all things. He opened the gates of heaven at dawn to release the sun and he locked them at dusk. In his right hand he held a sceptre with which he controlled all endeavours and their progress. Air, sea and land were held in the hollows of his hand and the world moved on its hinges at his command.



Webmaster
Onion Creek
Raul J. Scully

Onion Creek
Beacon Editor
H. Max Fisher



How Happy New Year is said around the world

Arabic: Kul 'aam u antum salimoun

Chinese: Chu Shen Tan

Czechoslovakian: Scastny Novy Rok

Dutch: Gullukkg Niuw Jaar

Finnish: Onnellista Uutta Vuotta

French: Bonne Annee

German: Prosit Neujahr

Greek: Eftechiezmaenos o Kaenooryos hronos

Hebrew: L'Shannah Tovah Tikatevu

Hindi: Niya Saa Moobaarak

Irish (Gaelic): Bliain nua fe mhaise dhuit

Italian: Buon Capodanno

Khmer: Sua Sdei tfnam tmei

Laotian: Sabai dee pee mai

Polish: Szczesliwego Nowego Roku

Portuguese: Feliz Ano Novo

Russian: S Novim Godom

Serbo-Croatian: Secna nova godina

Spanish: Feliz Ano Neuvo

Prospero Ano Nuevo

Turkish: Yeni Yiliniz Kutlu Olsun

Vietnamese: Cung-Chuc Tan-Xuan



Wells Fargo Archives



Spanish Christmas &

New Years

¡Feliz Navidad!

¡Feliz Año

Nuevo!



1 Christmas Presents - Regalos Típicos

Spanish tradition has it that the Three Kings, **los Reyes Magos**, are the ones who on the morning of January 6th, **el Día de Reyes**, bear presents for all the children, repeating the ritual they performed after baby Jesus was born. Influenced by American films and TV shows, some families have decided to switch to **Papá Noel** on Christmas Day, arguing that this allows the kids more time to play with their toys.

Most Spanish people keep their fingers crossed for a Christmas windfall, courtesy of the world-renowned lottery draw, **El Gordo**, literally The Fat One. This is a long, drawn-out event that unfolds on the morning of December 22nd. Ticket numbers in a giant drum are matched to balls with millionaire prizes in a smaller drum. The ticketing system allows people to buy fractions and subfractions of different numbers, **décimos** and **participaciones**, with increasing chances of a share in the winnings.

As the top prizes come out, TV and radio coverage centres on the search for the many winners and for the particular lottery shop where the winning ticket was bought.

2 Food and Drink - Comidas y Bebidas

Christmas sweets are the main seasonal staple. **El turrón**, nougat, is essential. This almond-based tablet traditionally comes in two versions, **duro**, hard, with whole almonds in a paste of sugar, honey and egg white, or **blando**, soft, where the ingredients are ground together.

Las figuras de mazapán, marzipan figurines, are also popular, together with **los polvorones**, soft crumbly cakes made with lard, flour and cinammon.

The main meal takes place on Christmas Eve, **la Nochebuena**, and consists of a major dish of meat or seafood, such as **cordero**, lamb, **bacalao**, cod, or **marisco**, shellfish, which varies according to the region or the family's preferences.

The 'lucky grapes', **las uvas de la suerte**, are the law on New Year's Eve, **la Nochevieja** - literally 'Old Night'. A tradition introduced in the early 20th century, it's said to bring good luck if at each stroke of the bells at midnight you take one grape and make one wish, **un deseo**, for the New Year, **el Año Nuevo**.

3 Quirky Customs - Curiosidades

Celebrations stretch from December 22nd, when the big lottery draw takes place, to January 6th, when the presents are unwrapped. Then, between Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, there's still time to fit in another celebration. The equivalent of April's Fools Day takes place in Spain on December 28th, **el día de los Santos Inocentes**, Holy Innocents' day.

Nativity scenes with figurines are laid out on a table at home, with no limit to their degree of elaboration. Life-size figures are also on display in public squares and there are silent, living representations in public halls.